

and human rights and adhere to the rule of law.

In voting in favor of House Resolution 243, my thoughts were with Father Nguyen Van Ly, a well-known peaceful political dissident, who was shown in an alarming video being physically silenced by Vietnamese guards at his anti-propaganda trial. The literal image of free speech being smothered has been broadcasted to the world and the United States cannot stand quietly by. The list of those dissidents being harassed, threatened, and detained continues to grow as Vietnam attempts to quiet political dissidents prior to their general elections this May.

I urge the Department of State to adopt the re-designation of Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern for its continued oppression of religious freedom, as recommended by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. It is my hope that the Vietnamese government will consider how their actions are viewed by the world, and that they immediately cease their detention and harassment of peaceful, democratic activists.

CONGRATULATING MORGAN  
MCDONALD

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Morgan McDonald, an outstanding young woman from Aurora, Colorado. Ms. McDonald, a student at Prairie Middle School was recently named a recipient of the 12th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Award as a state recipient. The award honors this young woman as one of the top two youth volunteers in Colorado for 2007.

Created in 1995 in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, Prudential Financial's Spirit of Community Award program has become America's largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteerism. It is designed to emphasize the importance of service and encourages young Americans to give back to their communities.

Nominated by her middle school, Morgan helps lead a school group that works to build leadership skills and improve the scholastic achievement of African-American students. Morgan will receive a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion and a trip to Washington, DC from May 5th to 8th for the program's national recognition events. During this trip she will be considered to become one of ten National Honorees.

Ms. McDonald should be commended for her commitment and selflessness. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP  
KEITH JENKINS ON HIS EPIS-  
COPACY CONSECRATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2007*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Bishop Keith

Jenkins, on his recent ascent to the episcopacy of the Open Door Evangelistic World Ministries in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

PROCLAMATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL  
FELLOWSHIP OF REFORMED EPISCOPAL  
CHURCHES

Grace and Peace be unto you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ,  
Hallelujah!

It is with great felicity that we proclaim the imminent consecration of the very Reverend Keith Jenkins to the episcopacy in the church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, on the twenty first day of October, Anno Domini, two thousand and six, at The Elim International Fellowship, The Protestant Cathedral in Brooklyn, New York.

The aforementioned consecration will commence at ten o'clock forenoon, at 20 Madison Street, Brooklyn, NY 11238.

May the blessings of the strength of Israel be upon you, our good brother Keith; and the love of the resurrected one sustain and preserve you. May your steps be guided by the everlasting spirit and your speech be seasoned with salt that you may know how to give an answer to every man concerning the hope that lieth within you.

Signed, His Eminence The Most Reverend Wilbert Sterling McKinley, Archbishop Primate His Eminence, The Most Reverend Trevor Dominic Bentley, Archbishop Exarch.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHER  
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL CHILDREN  
ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2007*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce an important piece of legislation, the Teacher Excellence for All Children Act: the next step our country needs to take to ensure that every child, in every classroom, is taught by an excellent teacher.

First and foremost, I want to thank our teachers for their dedication and commitment to taking on the overwhelming demands of their profession. We ask them to perform miracles every day in our underfunded and overcrowded system. And we owe it to them and to their students to provide more than rhetoric about our commitment to encouraging talented people to enter the field and stay there.

Let me also thank the organizations, and their members, who go to work every day with the commitment to help our schools and our students succeed. They are a great constituency for this legislation, and I appreciate all of their input into this bill. Thank you to the Alliance for Excellent Education, the American Federation of Teachers, the Associations of Community Organizations for Reform Now, the Business Roundtable, the Center for American Progress Action Fund, the Children's Defense Fund, the Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights, the Council of Urban Boards of Education, the Education Trust, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, the National Council of La Raza, National Council of Teachers of English, the National Council on Teacher Quality, the National Education Association, the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching, New Leaders for New Schools, the New

Teacher Center at DC-Santa Cruz, Operation Public Education, Teach for America, and The Teaching Commission.

We all remember the difference that outstanding teachers have made in our lives, but we also know that students who most need the best teachers are least likely to get them. There are many reasons why people decline to enter the teaching profession or decide not to remain there including reasons such as low pay, lack of meaningful professional development, lack of respect, inappropriate working conditions, or little opportunity for advancement.

By failing to address this problem, Congress is shortchanging our children and costing taxpayers an estimated \$2.2 billion annually to replace teachers who have left the profession. We need to act immediately to ensure that we have an adequate supply of exemplary teachers for the next generation of students.

My 43 colleagues who are original cosponsors and I are prepared to respond to this challenge facing American education with an innovative approach that matches the seriousness of the challenge with the "The TEACH Act of 2007"—the next step our country needs to take to ensure that every teacher, in every classroom, teaching every child, has the supports they need to help their students succeed.

The single most important factor in determining a child's success in school is the quality of his or her teacher. We all remember a teacher—or even several teachers—who made us proud of ourselves for what we accomplished and helped us face our future with hope and confidence. Imagine if every one of our teachers over the years had given us that same strength.

The TEACH Act will accomplish four critical goals:

Increase the supply of outstanding teachers.  
Ensure all children have teachers with expertise in the subjects they teach.

Identify and reward our best teachers.

Keep the best teachers and principals in our schools.

This bill is a major legislative initiative that will attract our most talented teachers to our nation's classrooms where they are needed the most—and encourage them to stay there.

Over the next decade, we will need to hire more than two million new teachers to serve in our public schools. Yet today, we have no national plan for attracting outstanding students into the teaching profession, or keeping them there.

My bill addresses this need by helping school districts to pay more competitive salaries and by offering up-front tuition assistance to talented undergraduates committed to a career in education, to established teachers working in fields like math and science, where the teacher shortage is most acute, and to retirees with math and science expertise who would like to join the ranks of our nation's teachers.

The TEACH Act also offers up to \$20,000 in loan forgiveness to highly qualified teachers who are working in high priority communities.

We know that too many teachers do not receive adequate preparation or training for their jobs to improve during the first years on the job. As a result, over half of new teachers leave the profession within five years.

The TEACH Act helps new teachers transition into the classroom and build their skills through state-of-the-art induction programs

that include proven strategies such as structured mentoring, common lesson-planning, and intensive professional development. This bill also helps veteran teachers improve their skills through peer mentoring and review programs.

My bill also addresses the problem that poor children are far less likely to be taught by expert teachers. Nearly three-quarters of math classes in high-poverty middle schools are taught by teachers who lack a major—or even a minor—in math. The TEACH Act provides higher pay for outstanding teachers and principals who transfer into the hardest-to-staff schools where they can help the children who need them most. Making sure these children are taught by a well-trained teacher is crucial.

The TEACH Act also helps create true career ladders that allow teachers to advance in the profession as they gain new knowledge and skills. The bill would augment the salaries of teachers who seek out opportunities to advance their own professional development and to mentor colleagues who are new to the profession.

We also know that nothing is more important in attracting—and keeping—outstanding teachers than outstanding principals. My bill raises standards and improves recruitment and training for new principals.

Teaching is not just another job. Teaching is a career that must be satisfying itself, that must attract the best people, and that must instruct our children to succeed in an increasingly competitive world.

We can have a dynamic and exciting future for America's schools and their students. We have the national resources. Now, we must make the commitment.

We must dedicate the necessary resources, demand the necessary results, and stay with it to the end to make sure that every child in America has a teacher we can all be proud of and that every teacher in America can say they are proud of us too for the support we give them.

I would also like to acknowledge three reports that were particularly useful. The Teaching Commission's report, *Teaching at Risk: A Call to Action*; the Center for American Progress report, *Ensuring a High Quality Education for Every Child by Building a Stronger Teaching Force*, and the National Academy of Education report *A Good Teacher in Every Classroom: Preparing the Highly Qualified Teachers Our Children Deserve*. All three reports were extremely instrumental, particularly in identifying practices that are working well and need to be taken to scale.

The TEACH Act will take us where research and experience say we need to go: stronger teachers, stronger principals, and stronger schools. I look forward to achieving the vision of a better school system for all of our children.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF VAL MCCOMIE, FORMER AMBASSADOR OF BARBADOS AND FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of my friend, Val McComie, who after a distinguished career and a lifetime of service, passed away on May 4, 2007, and to enter into the RECORD his obituary.

Ambassador McComie dedicated his life to public service. He served as a secondary teacher, and then embarked upon a career in diplomacy that saw him reach and contribute at the very highest levels. He began at the entry level of the Barbados Diplomatic Service, then rose quickly through the ranks to become his nation's ambassador to Venezuela from 1974 to 1976, and Assistant Secretary General of the Organisation of American States from 1980 to 1990. His dedication to public service is noteworthy. I'm particularly proud of his interest in human rights and environmental issues. His legacy within the inter-American community will live on.

I will keep his wife, Elia Garcia McComie and daughter Gail McComie in my thoughts and prayers.

OBITUARY—VAL MCCOMIE, FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Val McComie, 87, a former ambassador of Barbados to the United States and Assistant Secretary General of the Organisation of American States, died May 4 after a lengthy illness at the Washington Home hospice in Washington, DC.

Ambassador McComie was born in Trinidad and received his secondary education in Trinidad and Barbados. He attended the University of London, graduating in Modern Languages. He completed post-graduate studies at the University of Bordeaux and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Val McComie taught at secondary schools in Barbados, Arizona, and Ghana, and then joined the Barbados diplomatic service after the country became independent in 1966. He was appointed as ambassador to the United States and permanent representative to the OAS in 1968. He was instrumental in negotiating Barbados' entry into the OAS and the Inter-American Development bank. He subsequently served as ambassador to Venezuela from 1974 to 1976.

Ambassador McComie was elected as Assistant Secretary General of the OAS in 1979, and served with distinction for two successive terms from 1980 to 1990. He retired in 1990.

He was well known in inter-American circles for his outstanding and successful efforts at creating greater links of understanding and practical cooperation between the Latin American countries and the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean. He also encouraged the promotion of human rights and environmental concerns in the hemisphere.

His first wife, Margery Clarke McComie, died in 1956.

Survivors include his wife of 32 years, Elia Garcia McComie of Washington; a daughter from his first marriage, Gail McComie of Fort Lauderdale, FL, and two sisters.

A THANK-YOU TO OUR NATION'S TEACHERS ON NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

### HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2007*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Teacher Day and in strong support of our Nation's teachers.

As the daughter of a teacher and now the mother of a teacher, I know firsthand the importance of quality education for all children and understand the dedication of these committed professionals to our children. Teachers are the driving force behind our Nation's responsibility to provide a high quality education to every child. I know from personal experience that education can be the key to a better life.

I commend our Nation's teachers and their dedication to our youth. Teachers are on the front lines of our education system, working tirelessly to ensure that our children have the skills to reach their maximum potential.

I want to give just one example of an extraordinary teacher from my district—the Fourth District of Wisconsin. Ms. Andrea Payan of Morgandale Elementary School in Milwaukee was recently awarded the nationally-recognized Milken Educator Award.

Ms. Payan has motivated and inspired her students, her colleagues, and her community. Not only has Ms. Payan dedicated herself to her students, but she also serves as a mentor to new teachers, providing support and advice to those who have chosen this challenging and rewarding profession.

On this day of National Teacher Appreciation, I encourage my colleagues to not just "talk the talk," but to "walk the walk" and strengthen our investment in public education.

I thank and congratulate Ms. Payan, as well as the thousands of teachers in my district who may not have been nationally recognized, but who share that same commitment and dedication. I encourage everyone to remember and thank a teacher who has made a difference in their life.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2007*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 7, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes Nos. 302, 303, or 304 due to a family obligation. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on each vote.

### POWER SHARING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2007*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor this evening to discuss the historic